(c) the steps government propose to take for the recovery of the outstanding amount of Income Tax from these tax defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total amount of income tax dues outstanding as on 1.11.2005 is Rs. 93,801 crore.

(b) All the persons against whom tax dues are outstanding are not tax defaulters as the dues in their cases may be under litigation or stayed by Courts or pending before Settlement Commission or not payable for other reasons. Details of individual cases of default in payment of tax are not centrally maintained.

(c) Apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank account, debtors, etc, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc) the following special measures are also being taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears:

I. Monitoring of recovery of arrears in large cases by a Task Force

II. Identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose off such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself.

III. Requesting the President ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254 (2A) of the Income-tax Act.

IV. Requesting Settlement Commission to dispose off high-demand cases expeditiously.

NPAs of Banks

2969. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NPAs above Rs. 100 crores in the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken to recover them; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for closing these accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2005, there were eleven accounts involving an amount of Rs. 3,598 crore in Public Sector Banks having Gross NPAs above Rs. 100 crore.

(c) and (d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans, which, *inter-alia*, include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The public sector banks have been advised to take effective measures for expenditious recovery of dues from the borrowers in NPA accounts. The Banks are required to take action for recovery of dues in accordance with their loan recovery policies. It is not practicable to prescribe any time frame for closing these accounts as the banks are required to make every possible effort to effect recovery in accordance with their recovery policy.

Revival of BHPV

2970. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take early favourable decision in reviving M/s. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited (BHPV), Visakhapatnam, as it is one of the oldest industries set-up in Andhra Pradesh which played a vital role towards national industrial growth for serveral decades and a very large number of auxiliary/ancillary industries of Visakhapatnam totally depend for their survival on the revival of BHPV;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Government of India has submitted a revival package,